Art Unit: 1600

Clpto Tplunkett 4/27/05

1. An apparatus (1) for receiving a plurality of data packets and for routing the data packets in a data network, comprising:

storing means (11) for storing a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

detecting means (12) for detecting special data packets in the received plurality of data packets on the basis of the pre-defined list of rules stored in said storing means (11); and

routing means (13) for requesting instructions for the special data packets detected by said detecting means (12) and for routing the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request,

characterized by:

an internal entity (14) for storing instructions for the special data packets,

wherein said routing means (13) is arranged to notify said internal entity (14) of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity (14), and

wherein an external entity (2) is arranged to determine and update the instructions stored in said internal entity (14) during active operations.

Application/Control Number: 10/070,212

Art Unit: 1600

Page 3

- 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said routing means (13) is arranged to notify the external entity (2) of the detected special data packets and request instructions for the special data packets from said external entity (2).
- 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said external entity is arranged to determine and update the rules stored in said storing means (11) during active operations.
- 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said routing means (13) is arranged to modify the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.
- 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said routing means (13) is arranged to communicate with an external charging entity (3) for charging the routing of the special data packets.

Application/Control Number: 10/070,212

Art Unit: 1600

6. A method for receiving a plurality of data packets and for routing the data packets in a data network, comprising the steps of:

storing (S1) a pre-defined list of rules for detecting special data packets;

detecting (S3) special data packets in the received plurality of data packets on the basis of the stored predefined list of rules; and

requesting (S4) instructions for the detected special data packets and routing (S5) the special data packets in accordance with instructions received on request,

characterized by the steps of:

in the requesting step, notifying an internal entity (14) of the detected special data packets and requesting instructions for the special data packets from said internal entity (14).

wherein the instructions stored in said internal entity (14) are determined and updated by an external entity (2) during active operations.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said requesting step (S4) comprises the steps of:

notifying said external entity (2) of the detected special data packets; and

requesting instructions for the special data packets from said external entity (2).

Page 4

Application/Control Number: 10/070,212

Art Unit: 1600

Page 5

- 8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the rules stored in said storing step are determined and updated by said external entity (2) during active operations.
- 9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said routing step (S5) comprises the step of:

modifying the special data packets in accordance with the received instructions.

10. The method according to claim 6, comprising the further step of:

Communicating with an external charging entity (3) for charging the routing of the special data packets.

- 11. A data network system in which an apparatus according to <u>claim 1</u> (any one of claims 1 to 5) is employed.
- 12. A data network system in which an apparatus according to claim 2 is employed.
- 13. A data network system in which an apparatus according to claim 3 is employed.
- 14. A data network system in which an apparatus according to claim 4 is employed.
- 15. A data network system in which an apparatus according to claim 5 is employed.